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THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(WEST SUFFOLK)

THINGOE
C-7 NICH

REPORT
Of The
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1963



P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Thingoe, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

1, Northgate Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1963.

There was a further small increase in the Registrar General's estimate of the population.

Increases occurred in the birth and death rates but the latter, when corrected for comparability, remained appreciably below the rate for England and Wales. There was a welcome reduction in the infant mortality rate.

There was a widespread outbreak of measles but the incidence of other infectious diseases was very low.

In the substance of the report mention is made by your Engineer and Surveyor of the provision and extension of sewerage facilities in a number of villages. This work is expensive and there is little to show for it, but it is vital to the public health and it is gratifying to record that good progress was made during the year.

In spite of a reduction in the number of applications for improvement grants the number of sub-standard houses which were repaired and improved was maintained at last year's high level. In many cases this work resulted from informal approaches by your officers.

The introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 was made easier in the district by the high degree of co-operation which was received from the local butchers.

Once again it is my pleasure to acknowledge the interest shown by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the willing service of all the members of the Public Health Department and the co-operation of all the officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor The Rev. W.E. Harris, Chairman.

Councillor N.R. Whitwell, Vice Chairman.

Councillors.

Mrs. E.M. Brewster

T.T.F. May

H.H. Cawston

W.R. Rayner

A.H. Gooch

G.W. Reeve

K.R. Green

C.J. Smith

R.F. Greenwood

W.J. Tuck

C.W.G. Hatten

A.B. Parish

Mrs. L.A. Hudson

*Vice- Admiral J.W. Rivett-Carnac

* Indicates Ex-Officio Member.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

This officer holds in addition the following appointments:-

Assistant County Medical Officer }
School Medical Officer } West Suffolk County Council

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

F. HOLMES, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Hons. Dip. R.I.P.H. & H.

This officer is also appointed Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

A.H. TRANTUM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Dip. H. ENG.

Meat and Other Foods Diploma R.S.H.

Health Engineering Diploma R.S.H.

Smoke Inspector's Diploma R.S.H.

Clerk/Typist

MRS. J.E. JAMES

Rodent Operator

H.V. MILLS

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 106,739 acres.

Registrar General's estimate	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
of the resident population	21,790	21,620	21,580
Census 1961 (April)			20,070
Rateable Value	£360,112	£164,145	£161,988
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,620	£659	£640

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION. There was a further increase of 170 in the Registrar General's estimate of the population.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	198	180	378
Illegitimate	1	7	8
	<u>199</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>386</u>

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.7	16.9
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.8	18.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	18.2	18.0
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	97.9	97.0
Comparability factor for births	0.98	1.10

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	30.2	18.8
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales	17.3	18.1

BIRTHS There was a small increase in the birth rate and the figure when corrected for comparability remained slightly above that for England and Wales as a whole.

DEATHS

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.5	8.7
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.9	8.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	12.2	11.9
Comparability factor for deaths	1.14	1.01

Rises occurred in both the crude and corrected death rates and in the case of the latter this was due in part to the application of a less favourable comparability factor. The figure of 10.9 per 1,000 of the population compared favourably with that for England and Wales although it is the highest figure recorded in Thingoe Rural District in the last decade,

More deaths occurred from vascular lesions of the nervous system and from

all forms of cancer but there were fewer deaths from heart diseases. Fourteen deaths occurred from accidental causes, four of which were due to motor vehicle accidents. A melancholy feature of the death returns was the loss of three lives by suicide.

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	3	3	6
		<u>1963</u>	<u>1262</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		15.5	24.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales		20.9	21.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		5.2.	21.9

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age decreased from nine in the previous year to six in the year under review. Respiratory diseases and accidents accounted for four of the infant deaths, two of which occurred in the first week of life. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS										
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Birth Rate (corrected)	18.8	18.6	17.0	18.7	17.6	18.8	18.8	16.7	16.8	18.5
Death Rate(corrected)	10.9	8.8	8.9	9.6	8.4	9.0	10.4	10.4	8.4	10.1
Infant Mortality Rate	15.5	24.6	21.1	12.1	28.6	35.3	27.9.	27.9	21.1	19.9
Number of Infant Deaths	6	9	7	4	9	12	12	8	6	6

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths which occurred during 1963:-

	<u>Registrar General's Figures</u>			
	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	1963	(1962)	1963	(1962)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	1	(-)	1	(-)
4. Diphtheria.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
6. Meningococcal infection.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
8. Measles.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases....	-	(-)	-	(1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	6	(3)	3	(1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.....	3	(5)	1	(1)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	1	(-)	2	(2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	(-)	-	(2)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	12	(4)	4	(7)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	(1)	-	(1)
16. Diabetes.....	1	(-)	1	(-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	17	(13)	16	(11)
18. Coronary disease.....	20	(34)	15	(15)
* 19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	32	(1)	1	(3)
* 20. Other heart disease.....	12	(9)	13	(7)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	5	(6)	6	(1)
22. Influenza.....	1	(1)	2	(-)
23. Pneumonia.....	6	(8)	8	(7)
24. Bronchitis.....	4	(4)	1	(-)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	2	(-)	1	(1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	(2)	1	(-)
27. Gastritis.....	-	(-)	1	(-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	(-)	1	(-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	(2)	-	(-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	(1)	1	(2)
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases....	8	(14)	9	(7)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	(3)	2	(1)
34. All other accidents.....	4	(4)	6	(1)
35..Suicide.....	3	(3)	-	(-)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
* Corrections received after compilation of report.	112	118	96	71

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.....	122	102	224
Whooping Cough.....	1	1	2
Dysentery.....	-	1	1
Food Poisoning.....	1	-	1
Pneumonia.....	-	1	1
Tuberculosis:			
Pulmonary.....	2	-	2
Non-Pulmonary.....	1	-	1
Infectious Hepatitis.....	-	1	1

Measles. There was a widespread outbreak of Measles which caused 224 cases to be notified in the district but no death occurred from this disease.

Food Poisoning. A single case of infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* was reported, but the source of the infection was not detected.

CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics were held at the following centres in Thingoe Rural

District:

Barningham	Village Hall	4th Wednesday afternoon.
Barrow	Village Hall	4th Friday "
Chedburgh	Church Hall	2nd Friday "
Honington	The Aerodrome	1st and 3rd Tuesday "
Inghan	Cadogan Arms	2nd Monday "
Ixworth	Village Hall	3rd Thursday "
Roughan	Village Hall	4th Friday "

The above Clinics and other Health and Welfare Services were provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

NEW CASES

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Pulmonary	2	7	5	3	1	5	6	5	3
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil

Ages of cases notified during 1963:

Pulmonary: Male 26; Male 26;

Non- Pulmonary: Male 37

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified declined from eight in the previous year to three in the year under review.

MORTALITY: No death occurred from Tuberculosis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	
	Male	Fenale	Male	Fenale	Male	Fenale
1. Cases at 1st January, 1963	19	19	1	1	20	20
2. Notified first in 1963	2	-	1	-	3	-
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31st December 1963.	21	19	2	1	23	20

PROBLEM FAMILIES

Meetings of the Central Area Case Committee covering the areas of Thingoe Rural District Council and the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds were held approximately quarterly when detailed discussions ensued concerning a small number of real problem families. The meetings continued to be well attended by the members and officers of many voluntary organisations and by the officers of the various authorities concerned.

FLUORIDATION

In 1963 the Council did not express an opinion on the subject of fluoridation of public water supplies although the matter was discussed at a meeting of the Public Health Committee, which was addressed by the Council's officers and by a local Registered Dental Practitioner. In January, 1964, however, the subject was considered again by the Public Health Committee which declared its opposition to fluoridation by nine votes to two, and this recommendation was accepted by the Council. This decision was against the advice of your Medical Officer of Health who was disappointed at being shown so clearly that he had failed in his efforts to convince the members of the efficacy and safety of this measure which he believed, and still believes, to offer an important opportunity for the advancement of the public health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

1. GENERAL

Staff. The staff of the Department was unchanged during the year and this has enabled the work programme to be dealt with more easily. Miss J. Cousins married in July but has not left her employment. Mr. A. Trantun, the Additional Inspector, completed a day release course and was successful in obtaining the Smoke Inspector's Diploma of the Royal Society of Health.

New Legislation. Practically every year new legislation comes into force which affects the Department and this year was no exception. The most important instrument was the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 which came into operation on 1st October and, although not likely to cause this Council great difficulties, it was apparent that a greater amount of time would have to be spent outside normal office hours in order to comply with the Regulations. One Butcher gave notice of intention to slaughter on Sunday mornings only, but with his co-operation and the Ministry's consent the small amount of meat involved is now being inspected on Monday mornings thus avoiding the need to work a seven day week. However, this requires co-operation on both sides and occasional visits were paid on Sunday mornings where the circumstances of the trade made this necessary.

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 was also introduced during the year and your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. C. Tew, Veterinary Surgeon, were appointed officers under the Act.

Table of Inspections. The Table which follows gives an indication of the variety of the work undertaken by the Department but does not give a total of visits paid as in many instances a visit to particular premises is made under a number of different headings. For instance on visiting a factory not only is attention paid to the requirements of the Factories Act but also to food hygiene in the canteen, evidence of vermin and the efficiency of any boiler installation to prevent the emission of smoke.

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS

Premises Inspected	Total Inspections	
	1963	(1962)
<u>Housing:</u>		
Condemned Properties	161	64
Survey and Classifications	396	756
Defects and nuisances.....	150	79
Improvement Grants.....	265	321
Rent Acts.....	-	2
Overcrowding.....	10	10
Drainage.....	191	65
Applications for Council Houses.....	18	29
<u>Food Premises:</u>		
Meat Inspection.....	189	209
Butchers.....	23	15
Bakers.....	10	8
General Stores.....	115	34
Fried Fish.....	2	5
Cafes and Catering Premises.....	6	4
Mobile Shops.....	14	3
Licensed Premises.....	22	65
Unsound Foodstuffs.....	8	7
Dairies.....	2	8
Schools.....	9	42
Ice Cream Premises.....	21	5
<u>Caravans:</u>		
Caravans and Caravan Sites.....1	147	41
<u>Rats and Mice:</u>		
Tips.....	11	10
Sewers and Sewage Works.....	10	11
General.....	28	18
Contracts.....	3	5
<u>Factories:</u>		
Powered Factories.....	13	24
Non Powered Factories.....	6	5
Outworkers.....	2	3
<u>Petroleum:</u>		
Inspection of Installations (including tank tests).....	49	27
Interviews.....	226	239
<u>Infectious Diseases.....</u>	20	2
<u>Problem Families.....</u>	9	5
<u>Poultry Dressers.....</u>	3	3
<u>Smoke Abatement.....</u>	5	0
<u>Explosives.....</u>	14	13
<u>Agricultural Properties (Safety, Health and Welfare).....</u>	10	9
<u>Show Grounds and Fairs.....</u>	2	2
<u>Keeping of Animals.....</u>	25	2
<u>Water Supply.....</u>	25	29
<u>Ponds, Pools and Ditches.....</u>	61	18
<u>Bathing Places.....</u>	8	5
<u>Verninous Premises.....</u>	7	3
<u>Other Nuisances.....</u>	39	11
<u>Flooding.....</u>	3	3
<u>Sewer Connections and Pail Conversions.....</u>	30	15
<u>Insect Infestation.....</u>	8	9
<u>Lectures.....</u>	6	4
<u>Shops Act.....</u>	3	15
<u>Noise Abatement.....</u>	3	3

FACTORIES ACT. 1961 Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,6, and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	6	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	61	13	1	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (* excl. Outworkers' premises)	48	15	Nil	Nil
Totals	112	34	1	Nil

*i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123 (i)), Institutions (Section 124) and sites of Building Operation and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127).

Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Reported		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Found	Remedied				
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences..(S.7).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of cleanliness.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act not including Outworkers.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Unsatisfact- -ory premises Section (134)
Wearing apparel (Making etc.)	8	Nil	Nil
Making boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper (Firework cases)	Nil (This change is due to the closing of a firework factory.)		

Public Conveniences. No further action was taken concerning the provision of public conveniences in any of the parishes or on the major highways.

With the increasing number of motor vehicles on the roads the need for such facilities becomes greater. There is also an increasing tendency on the part of caravan tourists to use lay-byes as night halts and their waste matter is often thrown into the adjacent hedges and ditches. One can only repeat the statement from last year's report that 'this is surely a matter on which a national policy should now be decided'.

2. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

Fifteen samples from private water sources were taken to investigate their purity and eleven, involving eight properties, proved unsatisfactory. These were dealt with as follows:

Provided with mains internal supply	1
Systems cleansed or renewed	3
Premises to be demolished or closed	3
Still unsatisfactory at 31st December, 1963	1

One sample was taken for Nitrate estimation. The result of .1 part per 100,000 was considered satisfactory. The supply parish by parish is given in the Appendix to this report.

3. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

With the promise of a new Act concerning Shops and Offices no improvements were asked for except those necessary to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations but it is anticipated that several changes will be necessary when the inspections are carried out under the new Act.

4. CARAVANS

Although there was no sudden demand for Site Licences during the year approval was given for the development of a new site at Stanton for twenty caravans each van to have mains drainage and its own W.C. with communal site facilities. If this site is successful it is likely that adjacent woodland will also be developed and the owner is considering reserving one section for elderly people who choose this way of life.

The Council's site at Rymer Point was considered to be overcrowded and, as was reported last year, is to be provided with full conveniences for eighteen vans but the improvements will not commence until natural depletion makes work on the site convenient. This stage should be reached early in 1964.

A further standard condition was added during the year to all Licences requiring the provision of a hand extinguisher inside each caravan and a leaflet drawing attention to the dangers from fire is now enclosed with each caravan Licence.

Although caravans have not created any real problem it was necessary to take two prosecutions during the year concerning the use of unlicensed sites following lengthy negotiations with the owners, both cases were found proved and fines imposed which resulted in the eventual removal of the vans concerned. This action seems to have had a salutary effect on owners of other private land and it seems that the regular use of Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints by itinerant families has at long last been stopped. The number of caravans and sites in the area at 31st December is given in the following table:

Number of licensed sites at 31st December, 1963	37
Number of caravans on these sites	108
Number of exempted sites at 31st December, 1963	15
Maximum number of caravans on exempted sites	33
Number of applications for site licences made during the year	14
Number of applications for site licences approved during the year	9
Number of vans approved on such sites	33
Number of applications for licences refused during the year	2
Number of sites discontinued during the year	3

5. SWIMMING AND BATHING PLACES.

Regular checks were made on the natural bathing places in rivers and the level of pollution was not considered to give cause for alarm. The lock pool at West Stow would appear to have lost favour with the public and there was no evidence of it being used. Regular checks on the indoor pool at Culford School showed that this was tended with great care and the windows were rewired to avoid pollution from birds. Other pools are planned and the desire for learner pools at village schools is likely to result in this facility being provided at several of them in the next few years.

6. PRIVATE DRAINAGE.

During the year the number of requests for advice on private drainage problems showed a remarkable increase. The public demand for mains sewerage increases and although the Council have an ambitious programme it is obvious that some parishes will have to wait several years before they benefit from this facility. One aspect of drainage which has given rise to considerable

concern is the reduction of surface water ditches. Although this has been carried out, in the majority of cases, by farmers in an attempt to reduce the amount of non-productive work it has given rise to flooding and waterlogging of adjacent residential land. Although this is a private matter between occupiers it should be borne in mind by landowners that they are not entitled to deprive others of natural rights, but the trend does seem to indicate that this problem may get worse as time goes on.

7. RADIOACTIVITY.

With the advent of the use of radioactive materials by industry it is important that your Officers keep abreast of modern trends and also in the interests of Civil Defence. Your Chief Public Health Inspector attended a course at the Home Office Civil Defence College at Sunningdale for this purpose.

8. (a) PETROLEUM.

One hundred and thirty eight premises were licensed to store petroleum and two can stores were registered during the year. One tank was filled with water due to disuse and one licence was withheld until a certificate of satisfactory test could be issued. The following table shows the results of tank tests during the year:-

	Number	Passed	Failed
Existing tanks tested	3	2	1
New tanks tested	2	2	Nil

(b) EXPLOSIVES

The one firework factory in the district closed down during the year but twenty four premises were licensed to store fireworks or cartridges of which two were new applications and twenty two renewals. One other licence is in force for the storage of gelignite used for blasting tree stumps.

9. INSECT AND OTHER INFESTATIONS

Despite the fact that most countrymen are able to deal with wasps nests there was an increase in the requests for help in 1963. Thirty seven nests were destroyed and removed on a standard charge basis of 10/-d. per nest. The one infestation of fleas was in fact referred to in last year's report. This concerned an elderly person living alone who died in 1963. It was necessary, not only to treat the premises to exterminate the remaining fleas but to

remove and destroy a considerable quantity of material under Section 84 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Infestations dealt with were as follows:-

Fleas	1	Bees	1
Ants	-	Bats	1
Wasps	37	Hornets	1

10. RODENT CONTROL

The Department was authorised to obtain the services of a second Operator and to dispose of the motor cycle combination and replace it with a Mini-van. Personal approaches to people with known skill in this work were unsuccessful and it was decided to advertise the post. The new system should come into operation early in 1964.

The figures which follow are abstracted from the form requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1963.
Extract

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricu- ltural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other Premises	Total of Cols.1,2, and 3.	
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s District	61	5,965	493	6,519	389
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	9	147	11	167	5
Number of properties found to be infested by:- Common Rat Major	-	20	1	21	1
Minor	3	56	5	64	2
House Mouse Major	-	6	-	6	-
Minor	-	49	2	51	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	5	177	4	186	19
Number of properties found to be infested by:- Common Rat Major	-	2	-	2	1
Minor	2	9	1	12	3
House Mouse Major	-	1	-	1	-
Minor	1	7	-	8	-
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected	53	860	137	1,050	17
Number of properties found to be infested by:					
Common Rat Major	-	3	-	3	-
Minor	2	2	3	7	4
House Mouse Major	-	2	-	2	-
Minor	-	1	2	3	-
6. Number of infested properties (in Secs. 2, 3 and 4) treated by L.A.	8	158	12	178	2
7. Total treatments carried out (where known)	13	N/K	N/K	N/K	*-
8. Number of notices served under section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment	-	-	3	3	4
(b) Structural Work	-	-	1	1	1
10. Number of "Block Control" schemes carried out		56			

* Eight farms on contract are visited monthly.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE

The routine inspection of food premises year by year confirms that it is essential to keep up regular visits to ensure a satisfactory standard is maintained in all premises. Co-operation from the majority of traders in this area is, I am pleased to say, at a high level but there are still those who either will not, or claim on financial grounds that they cannot, reach the standard which the public are entitled to expect. It was necessary to institute proceedings in one case for smoking in a food shop following repeated warnings. The case was considered fully justified by the court which imposed a fine of five pounds.

The list of food premises by type shows a small reduction in the numbers but this trend was expected.

One is never completely satisfied that all possible dangers have been eliminated but the opportunity was taken to impress on audiences, to whom lectures were given, the need for the public to draw attention to repulsive practices at the time of purchase and even to withdraw custom from the shops if their general standards were not considered to be to the satisfaction of the shopper.

Food premises by type as at 31st December, 1963

General Stores	67	Wet and Fried Fish Shops	2
Butchers	8	Meat Manufactures	1
Bakers and Confectioners	6	Licensed Premises	55
Sweets	6	Works Canteens	2
Cafes	2	Clubs and Institutions	12
Nursing Institutions		1	

2. UNSOUND FOOD.

For the average village shop the outlay involved in carrying large stocks is considerable and it has been noticeable in recent years that such stocks have in fact become smaller. This has proved to be a blessing in disguise as economics have dictated the application of one of the basic rules of good management, namely that large stocks should not be held and that a proper rotation should be carried out. As a result of these circumstances the amount of unfit food which has had to be disposed of was very small in 1963. Two complaints concerning unfit food were investigated, one concerning a fly in prepared fish and the second involving a piece of animal hide in a can of

meat products. Full investigations were carried out in both cases and resulted in warning letters being sent to the firms concerned.

Several requests for advice were made to the office by housewives and shopkeepers concerning doubtful foods and although none of these items were considered likely to cause disease the principle of "if in doubt throw it out" was adhered to. It is surely better to be completely safe than just a little sorry.

3. MEAT.

The two private slaughterhouses were again licensed and four slaughtermen's Licences issued to men employed in them. On the 1st October, 1963 the Meat Inspection Regulations came into force and the Council decided to make maximum charges in respect of inspections carried out in the district. Meat inspection is a time consuming job particularly when considerable mileages are involved and the cost to the Council of this service is probably six to eight times the income likely to be derived. The problems involved in complying with the Regulations are complex but every attempt has been made to comply with both the spirit and the letter.

Other Councils were less fortunate. Due to the national shortage of qualified Inspectors and competition for the services of Meat Inspectors, one neighbouring Authority were unable to meet their commitments and were forced to allow meat to leave the district uninspected. Some of this meat was delivered to premises within the Thingoe area where it was inspected on arrival. However, this inspection could not be complete as there was no guarantee that the offal was from the carcasses inspected.

The details which follow show that no unusual conditions or diseases were encountered during the year and despite careful examination no cysticercosis was found. In fact there was an overall reduction in the percentage of carcasses affected with disease and a gratifying reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis in pigs.

<u>Cattle</u>			<u>Sheep</u>		
Kidneys	(nephritis)	2	Forequarter		
Part Livers	(distomatosis)	2	and Pluck	(abscesses)	1
4lbs. Brisket	(oedema)				
Livers	(abscesses)	4			
Livers	(fascioliasis)	3			
Set Lungs	(pleurisy)	1			
Liver	(abscesses)	1			
Head	(actinomycosis)	1			
Thin Skirts	(peritonitis)	1			
Heart	(pericarditis)	1			
Liver(part)	(melanosis)	418-			

<u>Pigs</u>					
Livers	(ascaris)	8	Guts	(tuberculosis)	1
Kidneys	(nephritis)	6	2lbs. Pork	(oedema)	
Hearts	(pericarditis)	4	Udder	(abscesses)	1
Heads	(tuberculosis)	6	Sets Lungs	(pleurisy)	3
Liver	(necrosis)	1	Kidneys	(hydronephrosis)	2
Kidneys	(cystic)	12	Sets Kidneys	(cystic)	2
Livers	(bact. necrosis)	2	Sets Lungs	(pneumonia)	1

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (All were inspected)	197	Nil	Nil	186	174
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	Nil	1	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6%	0%	0%	.5%	17.2%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.4%
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses or animals other than those shown above are slaughtered in the area.

4. MILK.

The Weights and Measures Department of the West Suffolk County Council again sent copies of all sample results which were very satisfactory. There were the usual complaints of dirty milk bottles and again one wonders how long it will be before the non-returnable container becomes accepted.

5. ICE CREAM.

Although no samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination attention was paid to the condition of refrigerators and advice given in cases of incorrect use. With the high cost of refrigeration equipment to the small shokeeper there is always the tendency to use one refrigerator for every conceivable item of perishable food and frequently it has been necessary to insist that ice cream be kept in a separate compartment from fish, bacon, sausage meat and even pet food!

HOUSING

1. CLEARANCE OF UNFIT PROPERTIES.

It was felt during the year than an approach should be made to some of the bigger estates in the area, which were likely to have their stock of houses severely depleted by the clearance programme, in order that agreement might be reached on how best to deal with their problems. Schemes were devised whereby representations of unfit properties should be dealt with over a period of years and recommendations made in respect of those properties, which it was anticipated would have to be included in this or future demolition programmes if urgent attention was not given to them. This approach was welcomed and although the schemes must remain, to a degree, flexible it is hoped that they will prove practical and help to achieve a successful end to a campaign which will no doubt cause inconvenience and concern to some of the older inhabitants. Progress is being made but progress concerns people and homes not just houses. This must never be forgotten.

Clearance of individual unfit properties proceeded at a slightly higher rate than last year and in fact the first five year programme is progressing faster than expected. If this rate of clearance allied with a more widespread interest in modernisation can be maintained I see no reason why the Council's long term programme, ambitious as it is, should not be successfully concluded. It is obvious, however, that as the programme proceeds a hardcore of difficult cases will require firm but sympathetic handling.

The summary below shows the clearance progress during the year

How dealt with	Number Demolished	No. Displaced in Year	
		Persons	Families
A. Clearance Areas	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual Unfit Properties (Demolition Orders)	20	19	9
	Number Closed	No. Displaced in Year	
		Persons	Families
B. Closing Orders	5	4	2
C. Rendered fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	62		
D. Unfit Houses Retained for Temporary Use	3		
E. Purchased by Council	Nil		

2. NEW BUILDING.

The rehousing of families from unfit properties was only maintained by the use of relets from the existing stock of Council houses as during the year only ten new properties were completed. Private development is, however, increasing rapidly. One hundred and twenty two private dwellings were completed and a further one hundred and forty four were in the course of construction at the 31st December. With full order books private Builders are less interested in building for Councils and the cost of new building is constantly rising. This must eventually be reflected in the rents and the Council are giving serious thought to this problem.

3. MODERNISATION.

(a) Council Houses

The two cottages being reconstructed in 1962 were completed and twenty houses were provided with modern conveniences. These schemes will also continue as adequate sewerage becomes available but again this work is limited by the availability of labour

(b) Private improvements and grants.

There was a further drop in the number of Discretionary Grants approved by the Council, the number of Standard Grants being slightly higher. The total of grants approved was, however, lower than in 1962. The bigger land-owners being restricted in the amount of capital available annually have set themselves an annual programme of modernisation and the fluctuation is due mainly to the lack of applications from owner/occupiers and those people owning one or two tenanted properties. There has been considerable discussion at all levels from Government circles downwards on the reasons for the apparent unpopularity of Improvement Grants and although many suggestions have been made, only two are likely to bear fruit. The first being to increase the amount of Grant, which it is felt will not encourage as many people to apply as is thought in some quarters, and the second, and surely the most appropriate, is for the general standard of fitness as now contained in the Housing Act to be improved, not lowered, and a degree of compulsion applied to ensure the realisation of this standard.

Grants approved and completed during the year:

	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Discretionary Grants	34	36
Standard Grants	37	27

4. OVERCROWDING

The housing position is such that some overcrowding cases are inevitable. However, only two new cases came to light and the known position during the year was as follows:-

Cases on Register at 1st January, 1963	3
New Cases	2
Families re-housed by Thingoe R.D.C.	0
Families re-housed privately	0
Families left district	2
Remaining on Register at 31st December, 1963	8

SANITARY SERVICES

This information has been supplied by:-

S.M. Casson, M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.P.H.E.,

Engineer and Surveyor.

1. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The works of sewerage at Hepworth and Hopton referred to in last year's Annual Report proceeded slowly throughout the year, and Hepworth scheme was in operation by November of this year. Considerable delay at Hopton has been caused by the failure of sewers to withstand a second test after refilling of trenches and it took until the end of the year for these defects to be rectified. The first of two pumping stations incorporated in this scheme is due to come into operation in early January, and it is fully anticipated that the whole scheme will be operational by the end of that month.

The Lark Valley sewerage scheme proceeded very rapidly, and by the end of the year the whole of the sewers included in the scheme, some $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extent, had been completed. The pumping station at Culford was operational, and it is likely that the stations at West Stow and Fleampton will also be available and operating by early February of next year. The sewage works continued at a slower pace, but should in any case be completed within the contract period, which expires in August, 1964, and in fact, the Official Opening date has been fixed for the scheme, on the 22nd April, 1964.

The scheme for the village of Great Barton was submitted to the Minister and approval received towards the end of 1963, and it is anticipated that tenders will be invited during February of 1964. As mentioned in last year's report the sewers cannot be put into operation until the Thedwastre R.D.C. constructs its new works at Thurston, and at the end of the year this scheme had not commenced.

With the growth of several villages, plants constructed in 1948 and 1949 in Ixworth, Barrow and Great Wheltenham are now operating to capacity and with potential growth in mind schemes will be prepared in 1964 for construction in 1965 for Barrow and Ixworth to extend, whilst before the end of the current year a scheme on expansion of the plant for Great Wheltenham had already been submitted to the Minister.

Survey works have been commenced in Fornham St. Martin and Horringer with a view to preparing schemes during 1964, for these to be submitted to the Minister and with a view to construction during the year 1964/65, and by the

end of this period the Council will have completed sewerage in a substantial proportion of these villages.

A further village at present being dealt with is Bradfield St. Clare, a scheme for which is being prepared with a view to submission to the Minister. It is felt that in this case - a somewhat difficult hamlet, that an Oxygest plant might be the most suitable. It is anticipated that with the Minister's consent work on this project will be nearing completion by the end of next year.

2. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As mentioned last year, the construction of new dwellings, which is running at the order of 120 to 140 per annum, is causing heavy pressure on the refuse collection and disposal system, and the collectors are now working substantial amounts of overtime in order to cope with the situation. The Council will be considering the revision of the refuse collection scheme during 1964 in order to combat this trend.

The alternative tipping site in Stanton is now in use, with the result that the nuisance arising at the original tip situated alongside the main road is now at a minimum. This pit is only used in extreme circumstances, where weather conditions make it impossible to negotiate the new tip.

The table below shows the collection of waste paper and scrap during the year.

		1963			1962		
	Tonnage	£.	s.	d.	Tonnage	£.	s. d.
Waste Paper	20	80.	7.	6.	48	175	17. 3.
Scrap Metals	6	107.	4.	10.	16	105.	4. 8.

3. WATER SUPPLY

The threat of amalgamation of Water Undertakings has hung over the Council's activities in this field during the year, but the Board was finally formed in November and should take over the Council's Undertaking in April, 1964. As in previous years, regular sampling for bacteriological purity and chlorine residual has continued, all new mains being thoroughly sterilised before use. Analyses of the principal sources are included in the report, from which it will be seen that no great change has taken place chemically over the period.

Dr. S. Greenburgh Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
PUBLIC ANALYST.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSES

Sample of Water labelled "Raw Water, Ixworth Pumping Station" received on the 11th December, 1963 from Mr. J. Chapnan, Thingoe Rural District Council.

Physical Examination.

Very slight deposit, odourless and colourless (Hazen less than 5.0).

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction pH 7.2	parts per 100,000
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	1.60
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.0050
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.0045
Nitrous Nitrogen	absent
Nitric Nitrogen (N)	0.20
Hardness (CaCO ₃ Clark)	29.6
Temporary	19.0
Permanent	10.6
Pernanganate Figure	0.0495
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	28.35
Total Solids	61.5
Poisonous Metals	absent

Mineral Analysis.

Calcium (Ca)	11.35
Magnesium (Mg)	0.99
Carbonate (CO ₃)	16.85
Chloride (Cl)	4.35
Sulphate (SO ₄)	7.68
Nitrate (NO ₃)	0.88
Iron	trace
Sodium (Na)	6.6
Fluoride (F)	0.04

Microscopical Examination of Deposit.

Mainly mineral matter with some "iron bacteria".

Alunbo-solvency - No action on lead in 3 days at 21°C

Bacteriological Examination

Coli form organisms absent in 100 mls.
Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C = nil
Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

REMARKS

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidence of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter. The presence of a trace of "iron bacteria" however should be noted
I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(SIGNED) S. GREENBURGH.
PUBLIC ANALYST.

19th December, 1963.

Note Results expressed in parts per 100,000

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSES.

Sample of Water labelled "Raw Water, Rushbrooke Pumping Station" received on the 11th December, 1963 from Mr. J. Chapman, Thingoe Rural District Council.

Physical Examination

Slight deposit, odourless and colourless (Hazen - less than 5.0)

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction pH 7.1

	Parts per 100,000
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	2.25
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.0020
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	absent
Nitric Nitrogen (N).....	0.30
Hardness (CaCO ₃).....	27.8
Temporary.....	21.8
Permanent.....	6.0
Pernanganate Figure.....	0.0266
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃).....	30.25
Total Solids.....	50.9
Poisonous Metals.....	absent

Mineral Analysis.

Calcium.....(Ca).....	10.50
Magnesium (Mg).....	0.90
Carbonate (CO ₃).....	18.05
Chloride (Cl).....	2.75
Sulphate (SO ₄).....	2.85
Nitrate (NO ₃).....	1.33
Iron.....	faint trace
Sodium (Na).....	8.6
Fluoride (F).....	0.02

Microscopical Examination of Deposit.

Mainly mineral matter with some "iron bacteria".

Plumbo-solvency - No action on lead in 3 days at 21°C

Bacteriological Examination.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.
Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C = nil
Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

REMARKS

The results obtained on the analysis of the sample do not show any evidence of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter. The presence of a trace of "iron bacteria" should be noted.

I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(SIGNED) S. GREENBURGH.
PUBLIC ANALYST

19th December, 1963.

Note. Results expressed as parts per 100,000

Copy

Dr. S. Greenburgh Ph.D., B. Sc., F.R.I.C.
PUBLIC ANALYST

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSES.

Sample of Water labelled "Raw Water, Risby Pumping Station received on the 11th December, 1963 from Mr. J. Chapman, Thingoe Rural District Council.

Physical Examination.

Very slight deposit, odourless and colourless (Hazen - less than 5.0)

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction pH 7.2

	<u>parts per 100,000</u>
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂).....	1.53
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N).....	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N).....	0.0010
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	absent
Nitric Nitrogen (N).....	0.40
Hardness (CaCO ₃ Clark).....	23.9
Temporary6	18.1
Permanent.....	5.8
Pernanganate Figure.....	0.0297
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	26.60
Total Solids.....	47.6
Poisonous Metals.....	absent.

Mineral Analysis.

Calcium (Ca).....	9.90
Magnesium (Mg).....	0.95
Carbonate (CO ₃).....	16.2
Chloride (Cl).....	2.1
Sulphate (SO ₄).....	2.06
Nitrate (NO ₃)	1.77
Iron.....	faint trace
Sodium (Na).....	5.7
Fluoride (F).....	0.02

Microscopical Examination of Deposit

Mainly mineral matter.

Plumbo Solvency - No action on lead in 3 days at 21°C

Bacteriological Examination.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C = nil

Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

R E M A R K S

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidence of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(SIGNED) S. GREENBURGH.
PUBLIC ANALYST.

19th December, 1963.

Note. Results expressed as parts per 100,000.

- APPENDIX -

Mains Water Supply by Parishes

As at 31st March, 1963

	No. of Houses	No. on Council Mains	% age of Total	New Connections
Ampton	31	19	61	-
Bardwell	248	178	72	2
Barrow	351	304	86	14
Barton, Great	374	337	90	18
Barnham	122	90	73	-
Barningham	175	157	90	3
Bradfield Combust	40	36	90	-
Bradfield St. Clare	54	44	81	-
Bradfield St. George	116	88	76	-
Brockley	66	61	92	-
Chedburgh	76	72	94	1
Chevington	146	118	81	5
Coney Weston	52	45	86	2
Culford	105	81	77	14
Denham	56	45	79	-
Euston	74	52	70	1
Fakenham Magna	46	29	63	3
Flempton	61	58	95	1
Fornham All Saints	143	127	89	2
Fornham St. Genevieve	21	8	38	2
Fornham St. Martin	139	100	72	2
Hardwick	2	-	-	-
Hargrave	87	82	94	3
Hawstead	87	79	91	-
Hengrave	52	48	92	1
Hepworth	126	107	84	1
Honington	118	100	84	5
Hopton	136	127	93	2
Horringer	184	143	72	6
Ickworth	16	10	62	2
Ingham	141	122	86	18
Ixworth	310	253	82	5
Ixworth Thorpe	34	33	97	1
Knettishall	12	-	-	-
Lackford	54	43	80	-
Livernere, Great	77	55	71	1
Livernere, Little	33	3	91	-
Market Weston	63	57	90	1
Nowton	61	43	70	2
Pakenham	318	251	79	5
Rede	50	44	88	-
Risby	162	148	91	-
Roughan	277	237	86	4
Rushbrooke	32	30	94	-
Sapiston	43	28	65	-
Saxham, Great	55	44	80	-
Saxham, Little	46	36	78	1
Stanningfield	82	80	98	2
Stanton	310	238	77	6
Thelnetham	80	50	62	-
Tinworth	32	23	72	-
Troston	74	74	100	1
Westley	28	28	100	-
West Stow	57	33	58	1
Whelnetham, Great	157	133	85	-
Whelnetham, Little	50	46	92	3
Whepstead	139	124	88	2
Wordwell	11	5	45	-

The number of properties on standpipe supply is not known precisely.

